



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 13-14



Brendan Darsie, MPH

Brendan has been placed with the Safe and Active Communities Branch of the California Department of Public Health. Before entering the fellowship, he received his MPH in Epidemiology from Oregon State University. During his time at Oregon State, he worked as a research assistant, and completed projects relating to chronic diseases and aging. He also completed an internship at the Benton County Health Department where he completed the Benton County Health Status Report, a comprehensive report on the health statistics of the county. Brendan's career goals are to work as an epidemiologist at the state or federal level.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Steve Wirtz



Madhurima Gadgil, MPH

Madhurima's fellowship placement is in the Chronic Disease Control Branch at CDPH. Prior to the fellowship, she completed her MPH at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, where she pursued a dual focus in epidemiology and program planning. Madhurima worked on a number of research projects while at UCLA, and completed her graduate internship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Her graduate studies deepened her interest in the relationship between nutrition and health. She is particularly interested in the role of plant-based diets in reducing disease risk. Madhurima hopes to pursue a career as an epidemiologist with a state or federal agency.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Shannon Conroy



Gael Lamielle, DVM, MPH

Gael was born and raised in France and moved to the US right before college. He studied veterinary medicine at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA and graduated in 2009. Since then, Gael completed an MPH at the University of Minnesota and worked as a veterinarian in a small animal clinic. He enjoys working with issues at the interface of animal and human health, especially with zoonotic diseases. Gael plans to remain in the veterinary public health field for his future career.

Stipend provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Preceptor - Dr. Karen Ehnert



Alexandra Lee, MSPH

Alex has been placed in the Chronic Disease Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health. She recently received her MSPH in Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. While in Atlanta, she worked at the CDC in the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. She also completed an internship at UCSF, where she analyzed healthcare utilization of diabetic patients in a self-management program. Her interests lie in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and nutritional epidemiology. Alex's career goals include pursuing a doctoral degree in epidemiology and serving as an epidemiologist at a public agency.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Shannon Conroy



Monica Murphy, DVM, MPH

Monica is entering her second Cal-EIS fellowship year with Contra Costa Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. Prior to entering the fellowship, Monica was a writer and a practicing veterinarian. She received her MPH from Johns Hopkins in 2010. During the first year of her fellowship, Monica worked on a variety of projects including zoonotic and enteric disease investigation, rabies prevention, and tuberculosis (TB) program improvement. In her second year, Monica hopes to concentrate more deeply on her major project which uses TB genotyping data for retrospective program analysis. Following the fellowship, Monica hopes to practice public health at the state or local level.

Stipend provided by the Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Preceptors - Dr. Wendel Brunner & Erika Jenssen



Marijoyce Naguit, MPH

Marijoyce received her MPH in Epidemiology at Florida International University, School of Public Health and Social Work. While at FIU, Marijoyce traveled to Peru with a team of graduate students to conduct an epidemiological assessment on the prevalence of malnutrition, diarrhea, and infectious respiratory disease in the small town, Marcaconga. She completed her MPH internship at UCSF Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research where she looked at the impact of consultation planning on cancer patients' decisional self-efficacy and anxiety. Marijoyce is a first year fellow at Solano County Public Health Division. Upon completion of her fellowship, she plans on pursuing a DrPH in Epidemiology and continuing her career in public health as an Epidemiologist at the local or state level.

Stipend provided by the Solano County Public Health Department. Preceptors - Dr. Michael Stacey & Leah Carlon



Lauren Nelson, MPH

Lauren completed her MPH in Epidemiology at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. While a student, she worked in the Developmental Disabilities Branch of the CDC on an autism study. For her thesis she did a spatial analysis of the combined effect of preterm birth and neighborhood socioeconomic level on developmental and educational outcomes of children in early elementary school. Lauren is placed in the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB) of the California Department of Public Health. She is interested in learning how environmental factors influence health and contribute to health disparities. After this fellowship, Lauren hopes to continue working as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department in California.

Stipend provided by the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch. Preceptors - Dr. Daniel Smith & Sumi Hoshiko



Mayuri Panditrao, PhD, MPH

Mayuri received her PhD in Epidemiology and her MPH in Infectious Diseases from the University of California, Berkeley. For her doctoral dissertation Mayuri studied the effect of in utero HIV exposure on postnatal growth in HIV-exposed uninfected children in India. Further, she also studied the barriers associated with utilization of continued HIV-related treatment in women who had previously received prevention of mother-to-child treatment (PMTCT) services in India. For her MPH internship, Mayuri carried out a population-based study to identify the risk factors for Chikungunya fever in Sewagram, India. As an MPH student, Mayuri also lead a team of graduate students to India to study the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in predicting malaria outbreaks. Mayuri's interests include the epidemiology of new and emerging infectious diseases, and the use of geospatial surveillance techniques in investigating disease outbreaks. Following the completion of her Cal-EIS fellowship Mayuri's goal is to pursue a career in infectious disease epidemiology at the state or federal level.

Stipend Provided by the CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP).

Preceptors - Dr. Stephen Arnon, Dr. Jessica Khouri & Jessica Payne



Sarah Park, MPH

Sarah completed her MPH in General Epidemiology with a Certificate in Global Public Health at University of Michigan School of Public Health. During the course of her studies, she designed and implemented a community study that aimed to characterize the prevalence of and identify risk factors for diarrheal disease among children under five in South Quito, Ecuador. Other previous experiences in public health include working with Mexican and Mexican-American mothers in the Detroit area with regards to their children's health and nutrition and assisting in public health deployments with Michigan health departments and community organizations and the University of Texas Pan-American in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas as a member of the Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST). She eventually plans to pursue a PhD in Epidemiology and hopefully work at the state or national level.

Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD).

Preceptors - Dr. Merry Holliday-Hanson & Dr. Holly Hoegh



Elizabeth Roberts, DVM, MPH

Elizabeth completed her MPH at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and her DVM at the University of California, Davis. Her MPH concentration was in infectious diseases, with a project that examined the epidemiology of H5N1 in migratory birds. Following her MPH she worked in shelter medicine, including medical and surgical outreach in underserved communities. For the past two years she worked as a public health veterinarian for San Mateo County, primarily with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Communicable Disease Departments. Her interests include all things public health, and her goals are to practice public health at the state or federal level.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Curtis Fritz



TaNisha Roby, MPH

TaNisha is a graduate of the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health where she received her MPH in General Epidemiology. She is a first year fellow at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP), Healthcare Outcomes Center (HOC). Her research interests include the epidemiology of nutrition and metabolic and endocrine disorders, mainly juvenile (type 1) and adult onset (type 2) diabetes; and disparities in prevalence, outcomes, and contributing socio-demographic factors with which these disparities are most commonly associated. TaNisha's fellowship experience has also generated an interest in the role of research in policy development and, vice versa, the influence of legislation on research objectives. Following the completion of her fellowship year, she plans to pursue doctoral studies in Epidemiology, after which she plans to utilize her applied research training at the state or local level.

Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development.

Preceptors - Dr. Merry Holliday-Hanson & Dr. Holly Hoegh